



By David Osborn
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Civil War Soldiers Who Died in service

Almost all of the Union veterans buried in the historic cemetery at St. Paul's lived through the great national conflict. They resumed civilian lives and died, usually from natural causes, decades later. Families memorized their military service through a veterans stone, supplied in gratitude by the federal government. Three Civil War soldiers buried here made the ultimate sacrifice, dying as combatants. All of these men passed from disease, which accounted for two-thirds of Union deaths.

One of them was Peter Bertine, who served with the 11th New York Cavalry, rising to the rank of quartermaster sergeant. Beginning in February 1863, he was confined to Camp Relief, a soldiers hospital in Washington, where he died on September 29, 1863. Cause of death was listed as "delirium tremens," or seizure caused by withdrawal from alcoholism, even though his family insisted the sergeant died of typhoid. This was an important distinction since the Army's official cause of death meant that Sarah Bertine, his wife, was denied a widow's pension.

No. 2. RECORD OF DEATH AND INTERMENT.	
Name and number of person interred.	Peter O. Bertine
Number and locality of the grave . . .	
Hospital number of the deceased . . .	
Regiment, rank, and company	2. M. Sept Co. 11. N.Y. Cav.
Residence before enlistment	Brooklyn N.Y.
Conjugal condition, (and if married, the residence of the widow)	Married
Cause of death	Delirium Tremens
Age of the deceased	33 Years
Nativity	New York Co. N.Y.
References and remarks	
Date of death and burial	Sept 29 1863

[A duplicate of this Record has been forwarded to the Section, and another retained at this Hospital.]

To Adjutant General W. F. A.

SIR: It becomes my duty to inform you that the person above described died at this Hospital as herein stated; and that if it is desired his remains should be interred with the usual military honors.

Respectfully,
R. S. Mead
Surgeon

MILITARY HOSPITAL, Camp Relief

This copy of Record is to be transmitted to the Adjutant General at Washington immediately after the place of burial and the number of the grave have been ascertained and registered. The above notification is to remain attached.



Lt. Joseph Mead, 119th New York Infantry.

Another wartime casualty was Lieutenant Joseph Mead of the 119 New York Volunteer Infantry, who served for about six months before contracting typhoid and dying on February 11, 1863 at age 24, one of an estimated 35,000 Northern soldiers whose lives were taken by the bacterial disease. He was interred in the prominent Masterton burial vault, owned by his brother in law, a master stone carver and proprietor of a large marble quarry in nearby Tuckahoe.

Joseph Shardlow died of disease, apparently dysentery, on September 13, 1862, at a Union army hospital located at Fortress Monroe, in Virginia. A farmer from upstate Livingston County, Shardlow, 21 years old, enlisted as a private on May 22, 1861, with Co. E, 33rd New York Volunteery Infantry. The regiment fought under General

George B. McClellan in the pivotal Peninsula Campaign of the spring of 1862. A capable soldier, Shardlow was promoted to corporal in June.

He probably contracted the illness in the summer, when bowel disorders were widespread. Civil War conditions created a tragically perfect setting for dysentery. Soldiers lived in close quarters, consumed poor diets of fried meat and bread, cooked meals in common pots and utilized primitive latrines close to the camps. Misunderstood by army medical personnel, dysentery and diarrhea, called “quickstep” by the troops, accounted for a staggering 60,000 Union deaths. Following Shardlow’s death in Virginia, the coffin bearing his remains was transported north and interred on a plot at St. Paul’s with other members of the family who had lived in lower New York.